CalderaBEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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) Case No. 800-2017-033470
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DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on October 29, 2018.

IT IS SO ORDERED October 22, 2018

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Kimberly Kirchmey

Executive Director

1	XAVIER BECERRA				
2	Attorney General of California STEVEN D. MUNI				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General DEMOND L. PHILSON				
	Deputy Attorney General	•	•	٠.	
4	State Bar No. 220220 1300 I Street, Suite 125				
5	P.O. Box 944255		· · · · · ·		
6	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 210-7548				
7	Facsimile: (916) 327-2247 Attorneys for Complainant				
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	BEFOR	E THE			
. 9	MEDICAL BOARD		•		
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
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12		7		•	
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2017-03	3470		
14	BITUIN TOLENTINO BERNARDO, M.D. 1310 Mondavi Ave.			•	
	Tulare, CA 93724	STIPULATED SURF		₹ .	
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A	LICENSE AND ORD	ER .		
16	40293			•	
17	Respondent.				
18				•	
19					
20	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGR	EED by and between the	e parties to th	ė above-	
21	entitled proceedings that the following matters are	•	. f		
		PARTIES			
22		•			
23	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant)	is the Executive Directo	r of the Medi	ical Board	
24	of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in			resented in	
25	this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Demond L. Philson				
26	Deputy Attorney General.				
27	2. Bituin Tolentino Bernardo, M.D. (Respondent) is representing herself in this				
28	proceeding and has chosen not to exercise her rig	ht to be represented by c	ounsel.		
	II .				

3. On or about August 8, 1983, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 40293 to Respondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2017-033470 and will expire on February 28, 2019, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2017-033470 was filed before the (Board), and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on July 23, 2018. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2017-033470 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2017-033470. Respondent also has carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel, at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2017-033470, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

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- 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up her right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.
- 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further process.

RESERVATION

11. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

CONTINGENCY

- 12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 13. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 40293, issued to Respondent Bituin Tolentino Bernardo, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Medical Board of California.

- 1. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician and Surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 2. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board her pocket license and, if one was issued, her wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 3. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2017-033470 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED:	9/14/2018	(Kalney Bernando POA.
		BITUIN TOLENTINO BERNARDO, M.D.
DATED:	9/14/2018	Respondent RODNEY BERNARDO Agent for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT.

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dated: September 18, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California STEVEN D. MUNI Supervising Deputy Attorney General

DEMOND L. PHILSON Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2017-033470

FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California SACRAMENTO (2 STEVEN D, MUNI Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 DEMOND L. PHILSON Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 220220 1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 210-7548 Facsimile: (916) 327-2247 6 7 Attorneys for Complainant 8 BEFORE THE 9 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 10 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 11 12 13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 800-2017-033470 Bituin Tolentino Bernardo, M.D. 14 ACCUSATION 1310 Mondavi Ave. Tulare, CA 93274 15 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate 16 No. A 40293, 17 Respondent. 18 19 Complainant alleges: 20 21 **PARTIES** Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official 22 capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer 23 Affairs (Board), 24 2. On or about August 8, 1983, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's 25 Certificate Number A 40293 to Bituin Tolentino Bernardo, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's 26 and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought 27 herein and will expire on February 28, 2019, unless renewed. 28

JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
 - 4. Section 822 of the Code states:

"If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the following methods:

- "(a) Revoking the licentiate's certificate or license.
- "(b) Suspending the licentiate's right to practice.
- "(c) Placing the licentiate on probation.
- "(d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency in its discretion deems proper.

"The licensing section shall not reinstate a revoked or suspended certificate or license until it has received competent evidence of the absence or control of the condition which caused its action and until it is satisfied that with due regard for the public health and safety the person's right to practice his or her profession may be safely reinstated."

[Bus. & Prof. Code §822]

5. Respondent is subject to action under section 822 in that her ability to practice medicine safely is impaired by mental illness, or physical illness affecting competency due to having cognitive impairment following a second cerebrovascular infarction in January 2017.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A 40293, issued to Bituin Tolentino Bernardo, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Bituin Tolentino Bernardo, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;

1	3. Ordering Bituin Tolentino Bernardo, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board
2	the costs of probation monitoring; and
3	4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
4	
5	DATED:
6	July 23, 2018 KIMBERLYKIRCHMEYER
7	Executive Director Medical Board of California
8	Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
9	State of California Complainant
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